

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to require the diffusing layer to comprise mineral particles. Support for this amendment exists throughout the present specification, including page 5, lines 4-17.

The claims have also been amended in a non-limiting manner to place them into better condition for examination. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments have rendered any objections to the claims moot, and that such objections should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

New claim 16 is directed to subject matter deleted from claim 6.

New claim 17 is directed to a method for minimizing light recycling in a backlighting system. Support for this new claim exists throughout the present specification.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. In view of the following comments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

First, Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments to claim 6 have rendered the rejection of this claim moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Second, claim 1 has been amended to require the substrate to be glass and the diffusing layer to comprise mineral particles. Thus, all of the claims set forth specific compositional requirements which must be met. In view of this, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112 rejection of claims 1 and 2.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The Office Action also rejected claims 1-6 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over PCT patent application publication no. WO01/90787 ("WO '787") in view of U.S. patent 6,844,280 ("Koyama"). In view of the following comments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

The Office Action has recognized that WO '787 neither teaches nor suggests the required substrate, and that Koyama neither teaches nor suggests the required diffusing layer. It is only through combining the applied references that the pending rejection can be made. However, such a combination of references to yield the pending rejection represents nothing more than impermissible hindsight.

The pending claims require depositing a specific diffusing layer comprising mineral particles on a specific glass substrate having specific characteristics. This unique combination of required elements yields heretofore unknown benefits --- minimizing light recycling in a backlighting system. Neither of the applied references teaches or suggests the required combination of elements, nor do either of the applied references recognize the light recycling minimizing benefits associated with the claimed combination. It is only through hindsight, using the present application as a guide, that one skilled in the art would have arrived at the claimed invention and, thus, the light recycling minimizing benefits associated with the claimed invention. This is particularly true for claims such as claims 3 and 4 which set forth specific parameter relationships for the claimed substrate.

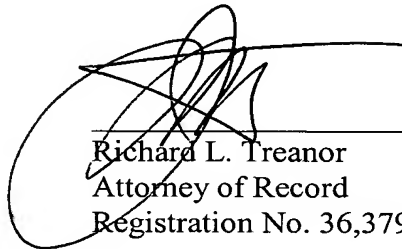
Application No. 10/527,340
Response to Office Action dated September 10, 2007

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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